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To find a horseshoe is good luck ; always place it over an outside door, and nothing but good luck will enter.

When knives, forks, and scissors, in falling, stick upright in the floor, prepare for guests.

Never watch a departing friend out of sight, for if you do he will never return.

If swallows fly lower than usual, expect rain ; if roosters crow more than usual, look for rain or news.

If land-birds fly toward water, and sea-birds toward land, rain is portended.

The first article carried into a new house determines the future of its occupants ; never begin with taking in knives or sharp-edged tools.

Remember the dream you have when sleeping for the first time in a strange room ; it is sent for a warning.

If one chance to see a spider suspended from its web directly in front of the face, and utter a wish, if the spider ascends, the wish will come true ; if it descends, it will not.

*Mary E. Chamberlain, Muskegon, Mich.*

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS. — I think many customs may be traced to a belief in the efficacy of this sign. In six months spent in different towns of England and Wales, I noticed that when the grate-fire was dull, and ordinary means failed to brighten it, my landlady would set a straight poker upright against the grate, thus forming the sign. No one would ever explain this arrangement, but she would say with an air of embarrassment, "I thought I'd try it."

After my return home I mentioned this once to an intelligent English-woman of the lower class, and after some hesitation she answered, "Oh ! it's all nonsense of course, but at 'ome they always said it was calling the witch to make the fire burn."

In New England, when only open fireplaces were in use, it was customary to rake up the fire at night, and, standing the andirons in a straight line in front, lay the shovel across them.

More than once I have been told by an intelligent person that, to prevent any annoyance from a mosquito-bite, "you should score a cross with your thumb-nail on the bitten place ; it will never smart again."

All these, I think, are survivals of the ancient custom.

*Pamela McArthur Cole.*

DIVINATION WITH AN EGG. — In front of a hotel laundry, opposite to the place in which I am writing, three old washerwomen are engaged in an inquiry as to whether they will reach the World's Fair. This divination, as I learn from them, can be performed only on the first of May. An egg is broken into a tumbler of water, the yolk to be whole. According to the manner in which the albumen rises, the quest is foretold. This spell is quite new to me.

*E. Foster, New Orleans, La.*